

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES,

And General Proceedings of the FIRST SESSION of the TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT of the PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA, commencing on Thursday, January 31, 1856.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

THURSDAY, Jany. 31.

MEETING OF THE HOUSE.

Members assembled at 1 o'clock for the purpose of being sworn in, and all except seven members answered to their names.

The Commissioners who attended were the Hon. Hugh Bell, Hon. Mather B. Almon, and Hon. E. Kenny.

The whole ceremony was concluded by a quarter to 2 o'clock.

At half-past 2 o'clock, his Excellency Sir Gaspard LeMarchant having arrived at the Legislative Council Chamber, by message commanded the House to attend him, when he desired them to elect a Speaker. The Commons returned to their own chamber, and—

The Hon. Attorney General rose and complimented the late Speaker on the zealous and competent discharge of all his duties while in that office; and said that he was not aware that there was to be any opposition to his proposal for that gentleman's re-election to that office. It was exceedingly desirable that the election of Speaker should be unanimous—because the Speaker should always have the confidence, respect and esteem of the whole House, and ought not to occupy the position of a partizan. He should be generally and universally respected. Without further observation, he would move that Stewart Campbell, Esq., the late Speaker, should be re-elected.

Hon. Mr. Johnston said a few words in deprecation of the election of Mr. Campbell, because he thought that some other individual less obnoxious to one side of the House could have been selected; but knowing the majority was on the other side, there was no use for him proposing any other member in opposition to the motion of the Hon. Attorney General.

The ballot having then been taken, and Mr. Stewart Campbell having been duly elected, was conducted to his chair by the Hon. Attorney General and Samuel Chipman, Esq., after which the Speaker stated that the House would wait on his Excellency in the Council Chamber.

The House having again returned to its own chamber,

The Hon. Speaker said—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having been pleased to announce his approval of my election to the Speakership of this House, I now beg leave to offer to you my most grateful acknowledgements for the distinguished honor you have conferred on me in this exhibition of your confidence. Sensible of the great responsibility which must ever attach to the position of Chief Commoner, I shall leave untried no exertion to guard the privileges of the House, and perform the functions of the office; and, sir, I earnestly hope that by courtesy, firmness, and impartiality, and a vigilant regard for the order, privileges, and dignity of the House, I may succeed in justifying the choice you have made to-day. I have now to report to you that the House, having attended in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech:—

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen, of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have great pleasure in meeting you in parliament, and I trust that our united efforts will be successfully directed to the development of the prosperity of this highly favored Colony.

The people of Nova Scotia, though most deeply interested in the existing conflict, are permitted by the gracious dispensation of Providence, quietly to pursue their industrial occupations, far from the scene, and exempt from the burthens, of a protracted war, which the arms of their fellow subjects, and of their brave Allies, sustain, with distinguished valour and fortitude.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The accounts for the past, and the estimates for the current year, shall be submitted without delay.